

You're not for sale

Trafficking in Human Beings

The trafficking in human beings is a major problem in Europe today. Each year thousands of people, most of them women and children, are victims of trafficking for purposes of sexual or other exploitation in their own countries as well as abroad. All the indicators unfortunately point to a growth in the number of victims. Containment of this traffic is a universal concern, because this evil is a threat to human rights and to the fundamental values of democratic societies. **The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings** of 2005 considers "that trafficking in human beings constitutes a violation of human rights and an offence to the dignity and the integrity of the human being", and "that trafficking in human beings may result in slavery for victims".

The Council of Europe Convention is the first European treaty aiming to:

Prevent trafficking
Protect the rights of victims of trafficking
Prosecute the traffickers.

The Convention is applicable:

- To all forms of trafficking, whether national or transnational, and whether or not linked with organised crime
- Whoever the victims may be, women, men or children
- Whatever the forms of exploitation: sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or similar practices, servitude and organ removal.

www.coe.int/trafficking

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Directorate General of Human Rights

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Trafficking in human beings is the modern version of the slave trade. People are forced by poor and insecure circumstances, by economic and political hardships, to leave their homeland in search of a better life. Alas, this quest can be a journey into hell.

Human beings are treated as commodities to be bought and sold, subjected to every form of exploitation: usually in **the sex industry** but also **economically**, for instance in the agricultural sector or in declared or undeclared sweatshops, forced to work for a pittance or no wages at all. Every day we learn of cases of domestic slavery where persons working in a private family setting are ill-treated, humiliated and subjected to exhausting working hours. Anyone, man, woman or child, can be entrapped and victimised by this traffic.

The stories of Talina, Fabia, Yvo, Anna and Sofia illustrate all these forms of exploitation.

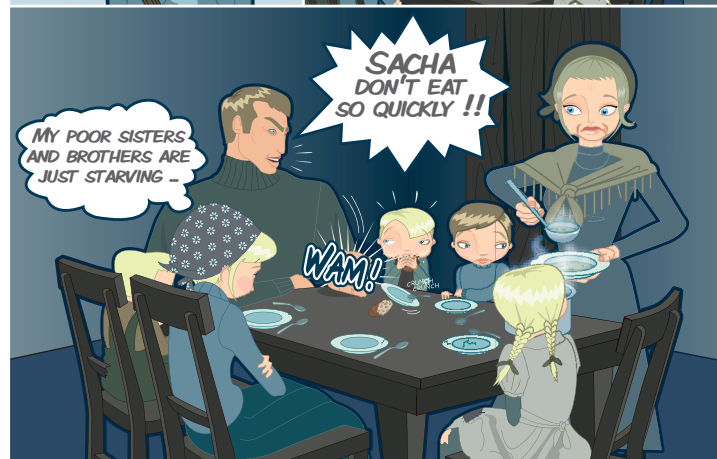
The Council of Europe, whose prime objective is to safeguard and protect human rights, intends these stories to alert the citizens of its 46 member states. The fight against trafficking in human beings has become one of its priorities. Numerous activities have already been conducted at the political and legal level by the Council of Europe to combat this traffic, the most recent being the adoption of **the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**. The comic strip you are about to read is a further contribution to Council of Europe action to combat trafficking and protect its victims.

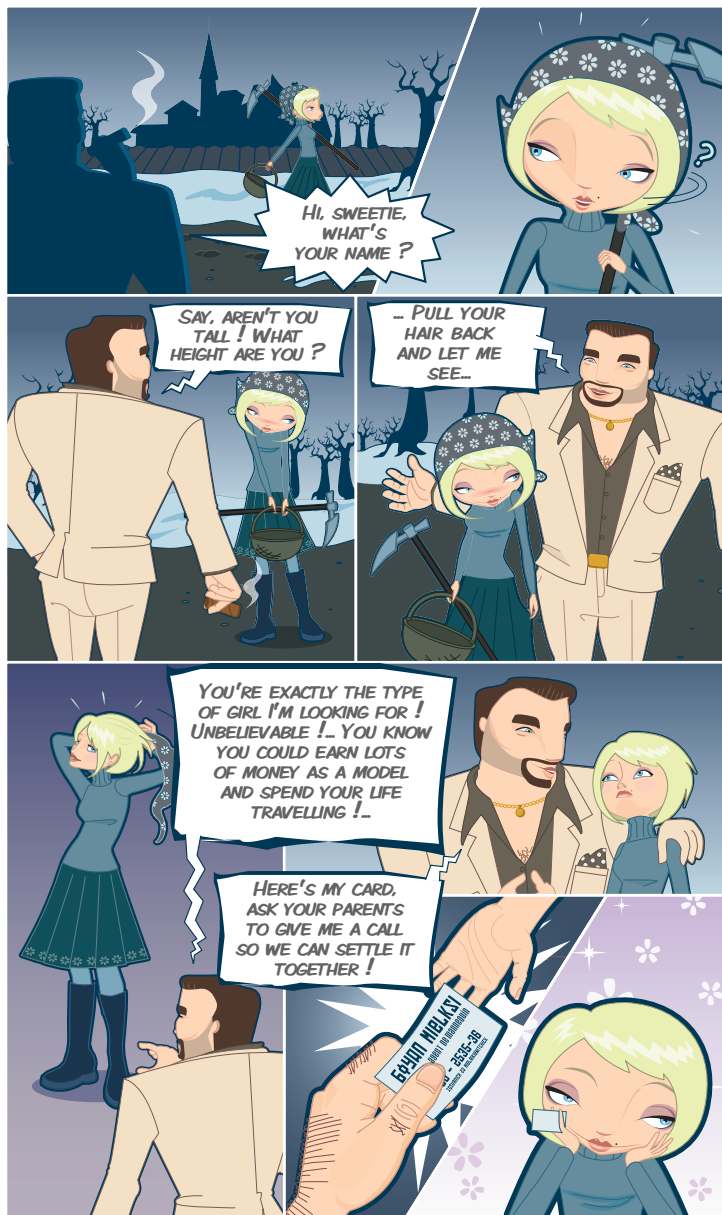
Talina

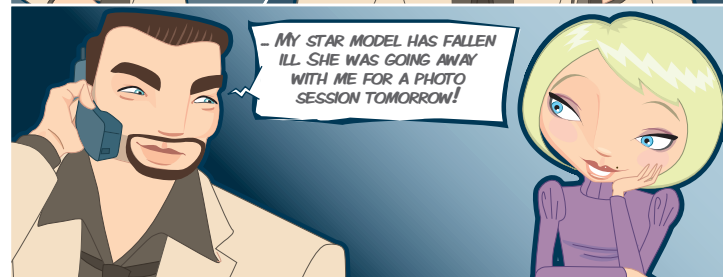
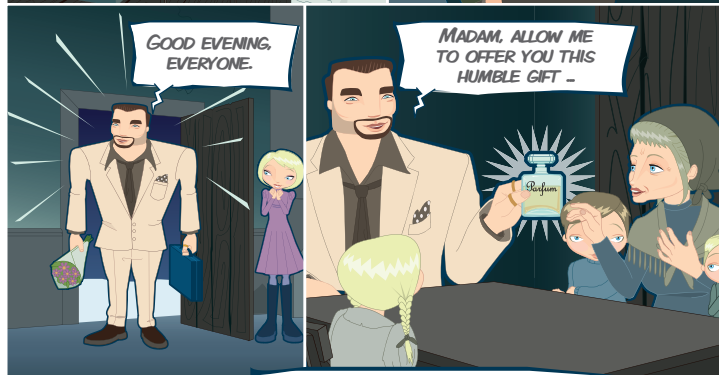


Chapter #1

TALINA IS A GIRL OF 18 LIVING WITH HER PARENTS IN A POVERTY-STRICKEN REGION AFFECTED BY WAR TWO YEARS AGO. TALINA DOESN'T GO TO SCHOOL BECAUSE SHE MUST HELP HER PARENTS.



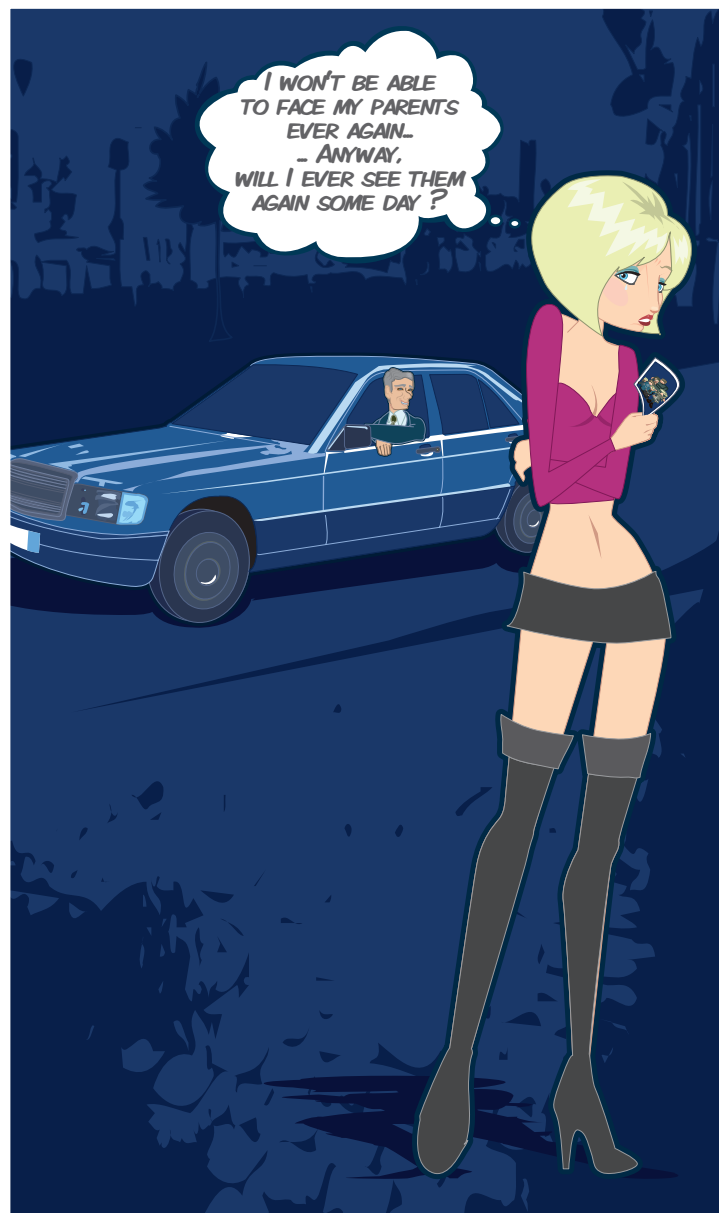












Fabia

Chapter #2



FABIA, AGED 15, WAS HANDED OVER BY HER POOR MOTHER TO ONE "SONIA" WHO HAS FOUND HER A SERVANT'S JOB IN A WELL-OFF HOUSEHOLD A LONG WAY FROM HER HOME.



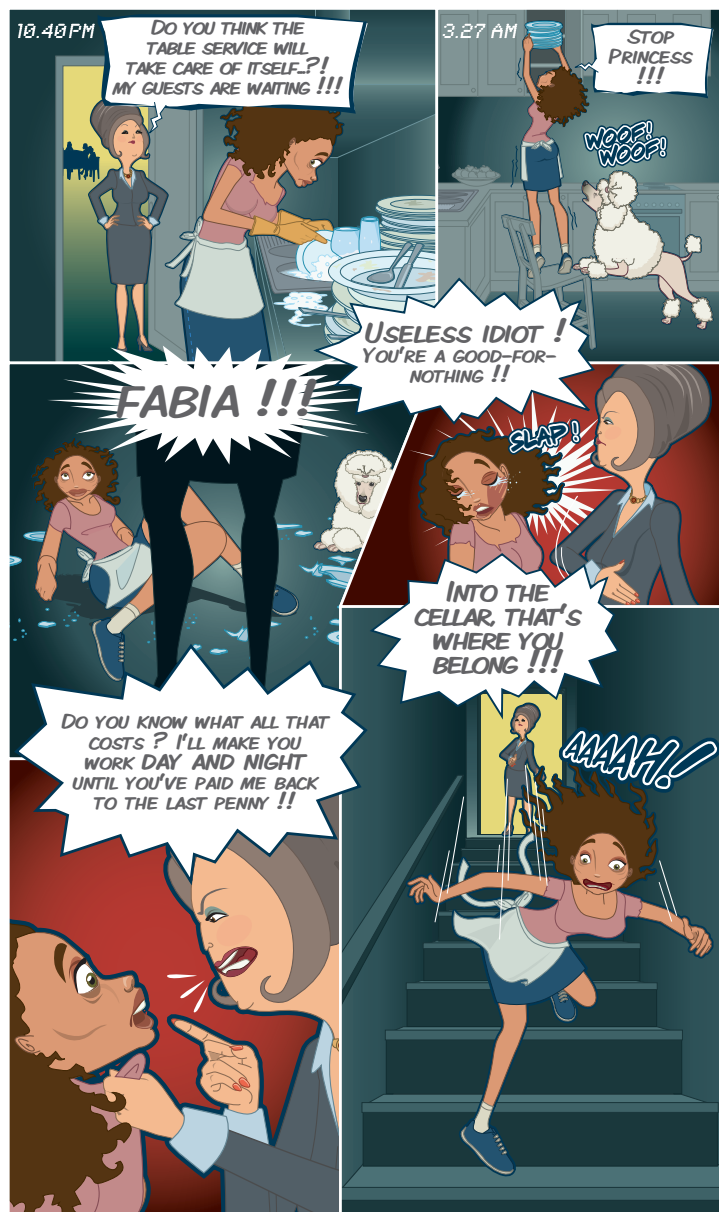
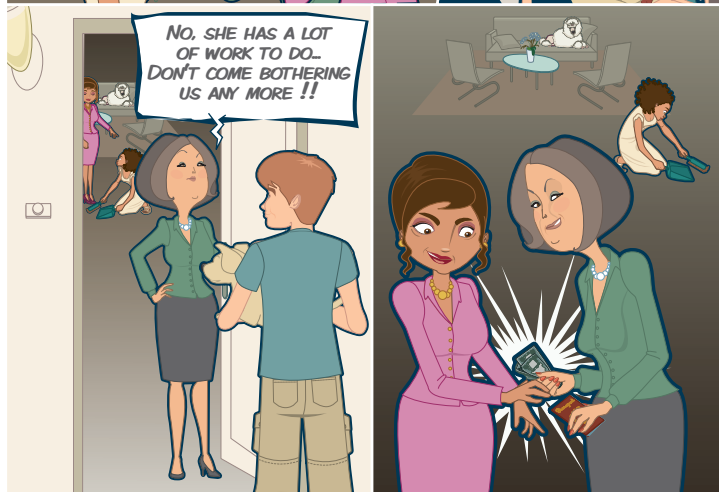
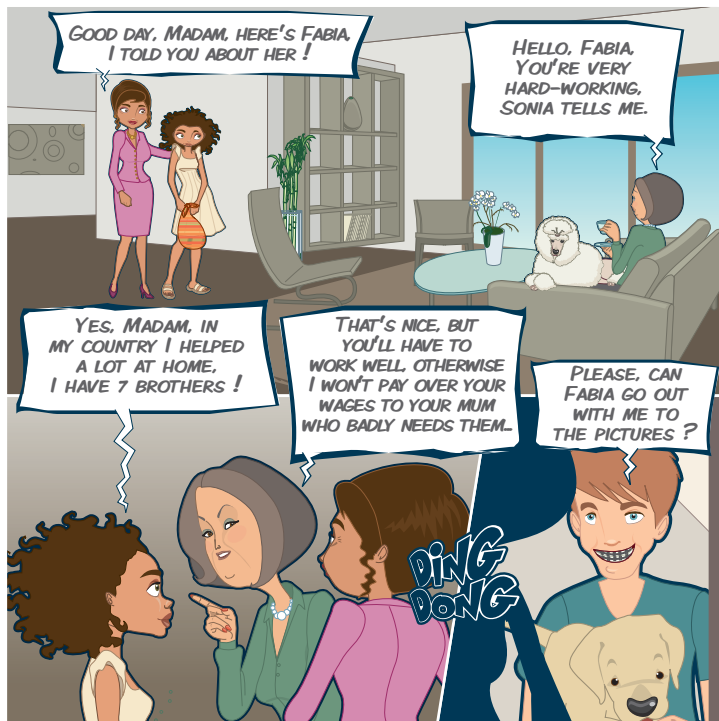
HELLO ! DO YOU LIVE HERE ? THAT'S COOL, WE'RE NEIGHBOURS !

MY NAME IS FABIA, I DO HOUSEWORK WITH THIS LADY TO HELP MY FAMILY



PING PONG

SEE YOU SOON !









YOU SURELY REMEMBER YOUNG FABIA WHO
WORKED LITERALLY LIKE A SLAVE FOR THE POLBERGS.
SHE HAS NOW RETURNED HOME, ACCOMPANIED
BY MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION, AND BEEN
REUNITED WITH HER FAMILY. AS FOR THE POLBERG
COUPLE, BOTH HAVE CRIMINAL CHARGES TO ANSWER.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
HUMAN TRAFFICKING, SEE YOU SOON
ON THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE WEBSITE:
WWW.COE.INT/TRAFFICKING



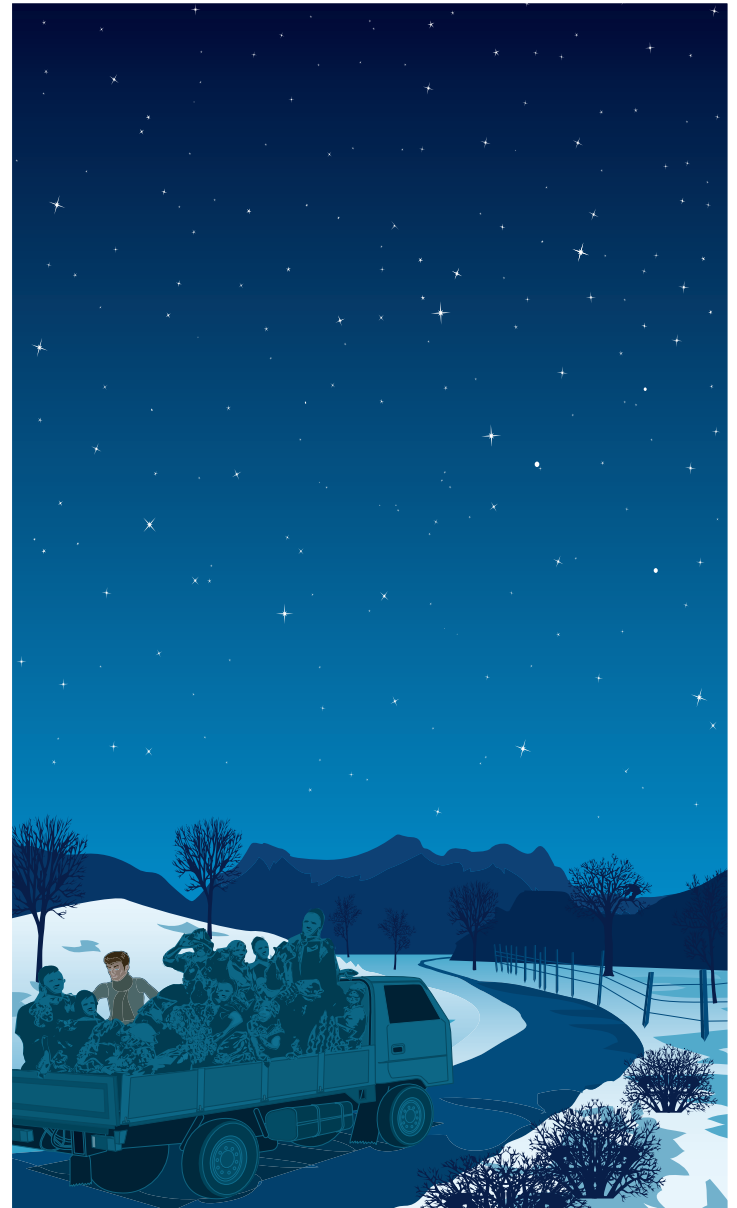
Yvo

Chapter #3



YVO, AGED 25, LIVES IN POVERTY WITH HIS WIFE AND THEIR 3 CHILDREN. HE'S BEEN UNEMPLOYED SINCE THE COAL MINE CLOSED.











Anna and Sofia



Chapter #4

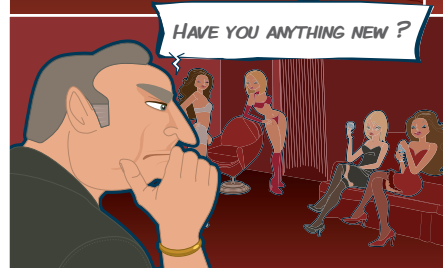
TWO SISTERS
ANNA 15 AND
SOFIA 19, HAVE
LEFT THEIR HOME TOWN,
LURED BY THE PROMISE
OF A WAITRESSING JOB
IN A CAPITAL CITY. BUT
WHAT REALLY AWAITS
THEM IS A HOUSE OF
ASSIGNATION.



WELL WHAT WOULD
YOU LIKE TODAY ?

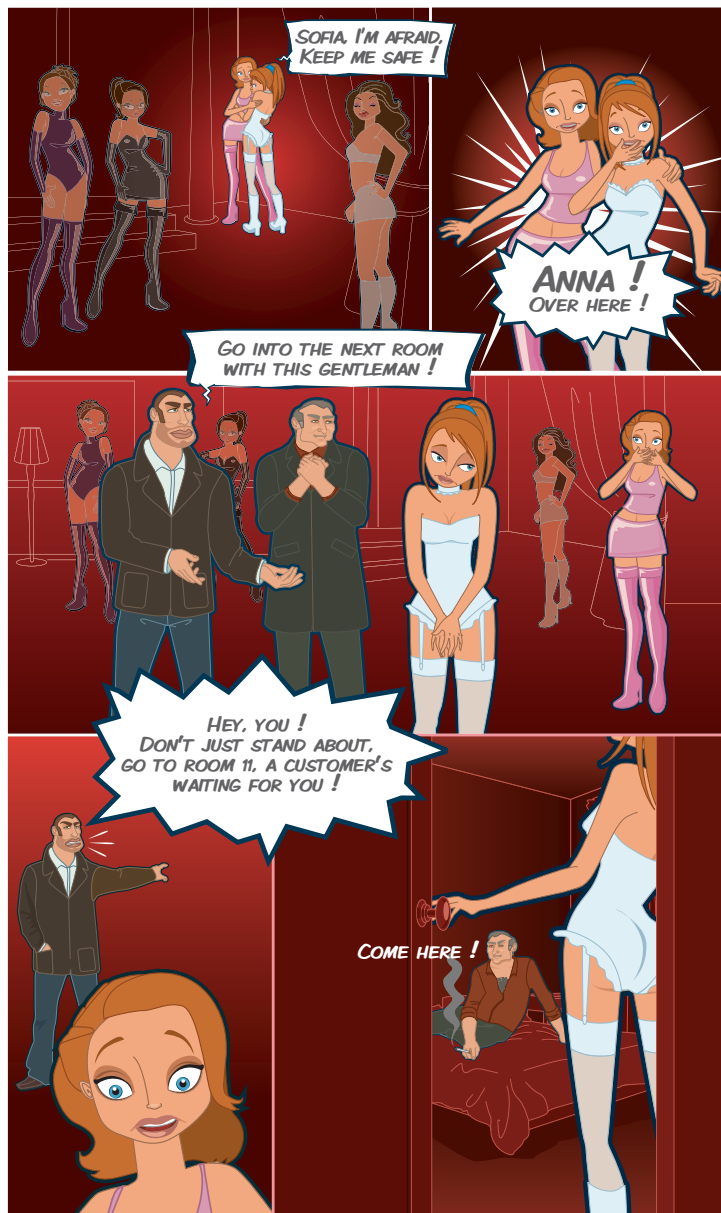


HAVE YOU ANYTHING NEW ?



I'VE A YOUNGSTER
I WAS KEEPING
FOR OUR BEST
CLIENTS !







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The Big Family



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